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John M. Fowler  
Executive Director



*Preserving America's Heritage*

April 21, 2010

Hon. Charles E. Schumer  
Chairman, Committee on Rules and Administration  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman,

It is a pleasure to write in support of the President's nomination of Stephen T. Ayers to be Architect of the Capitol. Mr. Ayers is a statutory member of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an independent federal agency created by the Congress in 1966 and charged with advising the President and the Congress on historic preservation matters.

In his capacity as a Council member, Mr. Ayers has demonstrated those capabilities that make him uniquely suited for the position of Architect. He is a consummate professional, well skilled in the field of architecture and the workings of buildings and complexes of great historic value, as exemplified by the Capitol and its attendant buildings. But Mr. Ayers brings more than professional competence to his position. He is one of those rare individuals who can work collegially with those of varying views, exhibiting a willingness to listen and the acuity to weigh the competing values and considerations to reach a reasoned and sound conclusion. Mr. Ayers has repeatedly demonstrated those attributes in a variety of highly charged issues of great consequence that have come before the ACHP.

Mr. Ayers has been an active participant in the work of the ACHP, bringing sound professional judgment to our deliberations. Our interactions with him on matters pertaining to the Capitol have always left us confident of his administrative skills and his ability to get the job done.

I thank you for this opportunity to provide my endorsement of his candidacy and hope that you will move to a speedy and well-deserved confirmation.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Fowler  
Executive Director

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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